REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Thus, claim 17 has been cancelled and this drawing objection is considered overcome. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 17 has been cancelled and thus this rejection is considered overcome. Claims 1, 2, 13-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomsen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,263,321). Claims 1-7, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haarstad (U.S. Pat. No. 4,759,182). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Pat. No. 5,819,532). Claims 1-7, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Novacek (U.S. Pat. No. 6,769,249) (hereinafter Novacek '249). Claims 1-8, 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Novacek (U.S. Pat. No. 6,318,078) (hereinafter Novacek '078). Claims 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of any intervening claims. Finally, claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and include all of the limitations of the base claims. Applicant respectfully traverses all rejections.

Claims 1, 2, 13-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomsen. Anticipation "requires that the same invention, including each element and

limitation of the claims, was known or used by others before it was invented by the patentee." Hoover Group, Inc. v. Custom Metalcraft, Inc., 66 F.3d 299, 302, 36 U.S.P.Q.2d 1101, 1103 (Fed. Cir. 1995). "[P]rior knowledge by others requires that all of the elements and limitations of the claimed subject matter must be expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." Elan Pharms., Inc. v. Mayo Foundation for Medical Educ. & Research, 304 F.2d 1221, 1227, 64 U.S.P.Q.2d 1292 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (citing *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 U.S.P.Q.2d 1949, 1950 (Fed. Cir. 1999); Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 848 F.2d 1560, 1571 7 U.S.P.Q.2d 1057, 1064 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). "The single reference must describe and enable the claimed invention, including all claim limitations, with sufficient clarity and detail to establish that the subject matter already existed in the prior art and that its existence was recognized by persons of ordinary skill in the field of the invention." Id. (citing Crown Operations Int'l, Ltd. v. Solutia Inc., 289 F.3d 1367, 1375, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1917, 1921 (Fed. Cir. 2002); In re Spada, 911 F.2d 705, 708 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1655, 1657 (Fed. Cir. 1990)). See also PPG Indus., Inc. v. Guardian Indus. Corp., 75 F.3d 1558, 1566, 37 U.S.P.Q.2d 1618, 1624 (Fed. Cir. 1996) (emphasis added).

Claim 1 has been amended to require "wherein the leakage compensation system is fully hydraulic." The Thomsen reference does not teach a fully hydraulic compensation system. Instead Thomsen teaches a plus valve 17 and a minus valve 18 that are controlled by a processing device. (Col. 4, lines 3-4). This processing device is connected to a sensor 20 for sensing the angle of the steering handwheel and a sensor 21 for sensing the angle of the steering motor. (Col.

4, lines 4-7). Thus, the Thomsen reference teaches electrical sensors within its leakage compensation system and is not fully hydraulic as required by the amended claim. Therefore, each and every limitation of claim is not met by Thomsen and the anticipation rejection must be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Haarstad, Wang and Novacek '078. Claim 1 has been amended to require "wherein the valve arrangement (A6, A7) of the auxiliary fluid path (12) comprises means for correcting the correlation between the position of the control element (2) and the position of the steering member (3)." Haarstad, Wang and Novacek '078 none teach a means for correcting the correlation between the position of the control element (2) and the position of the steering member (3). Instead, Haarstad teaches a fluid controller 17 that has a fluid meter 51 and a valving arrangement 49 including a valve spool 65 and a sleeve 67 that controls the flow of fluid to a steering cylinder 19. (Col. 4, lines 46-68).

Wang also does not teach a means for correcting the correlation between the position of the control element and the position of the steering member. Instead, Wang teaches a controller 17 that defines a fluid path 35 communicating between an inlet port 21 and a fluid meter 37 and a fluid 39 communicating from the fluid meter 37 to the control fluid port 25. (Col. 4, lines 6-8). The fluid path 35 is also in communication with both the LS port 29 and the return port 23 by means of a load signal circuit 49. (Col. 4, lines 25-27). Wang does not teach correcting the correlation between the position of a control element and the position of a steering member.

Novacek '078 teaches a fluid controller 17 that operates a steering wheel 27 by a vehicle operator that displaces the spool valve 31 relative to the sleeve valve 33. Displacement of the spool valve 31 relative to the sleeve valve 33 opens a main fluid path 53 which provides communication from the inlet port 15 through the fluid meter 43 to the control fluid port 21 (Col. 4, lines 60-67). Thus, the Novacek '078 reference does not teach a means for correcting the correlation between the position of a control element and the position of a steering member. Therefore, each and every limitation of the amended claim 1 is not present within Haarstad, Wang or Novacek '078 and the anticipation rejection must be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Novacek '249. Claim 1 has been amended to require that "wherein the control section has a housing (H), and outer rotary slide (Y) arranged to be rotatable in the housing and an inner rotary slide (I) arranged to be rotatable in the outer rotary slide, wherein the valve arrangement (A6, A7) has a throttle (A6) formed between the outer slide (Y) and the housing (H) through cooperation of a throttling groove (S1R) and a bore (10)." This limitation is partially taken from original claim 6 that claimed a control section that has a housing (H), an outer rotary slide (Y) arranged to be rotatable in the housing and an end rotary slide (I) arranged to be rotatable in the outer rotary slide and has combined it with the disclosure within the specification at page 13, line 31 that states "physically, the throttle A6 is formed between the outer slide Y and the housing H namely through the cooperation of the throttling groove S1R and the bore 10." Thus, this amendment is supported by the original specification and no new matter has

been added. Novacek '249 does not teach this limitation and instead teaches a housing 29 comprising a rotary fluid pressure operated motor 45 and a rotatable valve member 77 that works in association with rotatable follow-up valve member 79. (Col. 5, lines 38-48). However, Novacek does not teach a throttling groove that has a throttle therein between an outer slide and a housing. Thus, each and every limitation of amended claim 1 is not met by the Novacek reference and the Novacek reference is considered overcome. Additionally, in view of this amendment to claim 1, claim 6 has been amended to reflect the claim 1 amendment.

The Examiner has identified that claims 9 and 10 were objected to as being dependent on a base claim but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the claim limitations of the preceding claims. Thus, Applicant has amended claims 9 and 10 to rewrite them in independent form and includes all the claim limitations of the preceding claims. Finally, claims 2, 4-8, 11-16 and 18-19 all depend on claim 1 and for at least this reason are considered in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

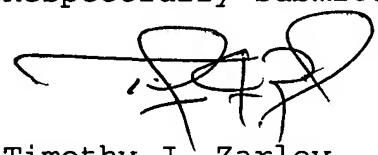
In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that claims 1-2, 4-16, and 18-19 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

All fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this response are attached hereto; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently

omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



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